



[European Union Condemns the Rigged Belarus Elections and Prepares to Impose Sanctions](#)

The European Union has condemned the recent elections in Belarus as rigged and is preparing to place sanctions on the country. The EU said it would not recognize Aleksandr Lukashenko as the winner of the elections, but stopped short of recognizing the opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya as the legitimate leader of the country. Belarus has been brought to a halt by overwhelming popular protests demanding the resignation of the embattled Lukashenko, who has so far refused to give in. The European Union said it would be imposing sanctions on individuals responsible for violence, repression, and election fraud, and it would also be diverting aid money from the Belarusian government to victims of the state-sponsored violence.

The EU has also called for mediation between the Lukashenko regime and the opposition in order to reconcile differences and negotiate a peaceful change of power. Charles Michel, the President of the European Council, also said the crisis must be resolved by the people of Belarus, not by the outside influence of Russia or the EU. Russia has said it is concerned by the West attempting to project influence into Belarus, but its support of Lukashenko is lukewarm at best, due to a number of headaches he has caused Moscow in recent years. A spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin emphasized the importance of dialogue between society and the authorities in order to solve the current crisis.